

BEDWAS AND MACHEN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

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BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1958-59

Councillor C. Williams, J.P. Chairman

Councillor H. Curtis, Vice-Chairman

MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs. S. J. Graham	Councillor G. Phillips
„ A. E. Gameson	„ F. C. Dudden
„ H. Gibbon	„ A. J. James
„ F. Phipps	„ H. Ludlow
„ L. Vaughan	„ S. G. Lewis
„ G. Beeston, J.P.	„ E. V. Matthews
„ A. Walley	„ W. H. Perrin



OFFICERS

Clerk of the Council	.....	.....	.....	.....	W. EWART MORGAN
Medical Officer of Health	.....	.....	.....	.....	K. P. GILES, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Engineer and Surveyor	.....	.....	.....	.....	R. RUTTLEY
Chief Financial Officer	.....	.....	.....	.....	R. HUMPHRIES, A.C.I.S.
Public Health Inspector.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	H. R. SULWAY, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	.....	.....	.....	.....	I. JONES, M.A.P.H.I.
Bankers	.....	.....	.....	.....	Co-operative Wholesale Society

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BEDWAS.

JULY, 1959.

To :-

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Graham, and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year ended the 31st December, 1958.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Approximate area of the district	.....	.....	.....	6,200	acres
Population (Census 1951)	.....	.....	.....	8,712	
Estimated Population (R.G. June, 1958)	.....	.....	.....	9,800	
Number of Dwellings (including Farmhouses)	.....	.....	.....	2,848	
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	£55,272	
Rate in £ levied 1958-59	.....	.....	.....	£1 12	0d.
Product of Penny Rate	.....	.....	.....	£196	

VARIATION IN POPULATION FIGURES.

Year						
1951	Census figures	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,712
1955	Estimated Mid-year R.G. figures	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,520
1956	"	"	"	"	.....	9,650
1957	"	"	"	"	.....	9,710
1958	"	"	"	"	.....	9,800

Which shows a gradual increase in the population.

BIRTH RATE.

LIVE BIRTHS

					Males	Females
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	.....	90	85
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	91	86

Totalling : 177 live births.

Birth Rate per thousand of population	.....	.....	18.16
Birth Rate for the County of Monmouth	.....	.....	17.04

STILL BIRTHS

Total Still Births	.....	.....	.....	3 males
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	.....	.....	.....	16.6
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	.....	.....	.....	0.31
Still Birth rate for the county of Monmouth	.....	.....	.....	0.49
per thousand population	.....	.....	.....

DEATH RATE

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes	51	45	96
Death Rate per thousand population	.....	.....	9.79
Death Rate for the County of Monmouth	.....	.....	11.73

MATERNAL DEATH RATE

Deaths from puerperal sepsis	.....	.....	.....	NIL
Deaths from other puerperal causes	.....	.....	.....	NIL
Maternal Mortality Rate for the County of Monmouth	.....	.....	.....	0.35
per 1,000 Live and Still Births	.....	.....	.....

INFANT MORTALITY

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	.....	2 males
Deaths of Infants over 4 weeks and under 1 year	.....	2 males
Total deaths of Infants under 1 year	.....	4 males

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Per 1,000 live births	.....	22.6
Rate for the County of Monmouth	.....	25.81

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

CAUSE OF DEATH	Males	FEMALES	TOTAL
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	0	2
Cancer (Stomach)	3	3	6
Cancer (lung)	1	0	1
Cancer (Breast)	0	3	3
Cancer (Other Sites)	1	5	6
Diabetes	0	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	5	11
Coronary Disease, Angina	11	7	18
Hypertensions with heart disease	4	2	6
Other heart disease	3	3	6
Other circulatory disease	5	2	7
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
Congenital malformations	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	8	13
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	1
All other accidents	1	1	2
Totals	51	45	96

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Infectious diseases notifications received during the year :-

Nature of Disease	Number of cases
Scarlet Fever	3
Whooping Cough	5
Measles	81
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	8
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	1
Erysipelas.....	1
Total	<u>101</u>

WARD INCIDENCE (excluding tuberculosis)

WARD	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Erysi- pelas	Puerperal Pyrexia
Maesy- cwmmer	3	3	39	1	0
Bedwas	0	2	15	0	1
Trethomas	0	0	23	0	1
Machen	0	0	4	0	0
TOTALS	3	5	81	1	2

From the above table it can be seen that the year 1958, was a very good year for the incidence of infectious diseases as, apart from the 31 cases of measles, the district had practically a clean bill of health.

The usual advice was given to the public concerned and disinfectants were given to the households affected.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Once more, the incidence of tuberculosis is still showing a slight decline in comparison with former years, as can be seen from the following table :-

YEAR	Number of cases reported		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	
1954	14	1	15
1955	13	0	13
1956	11	0	11
1957	8	2	10
1958	8	1	9

CASES NOTIFIED AND MORTALITY DURING 1958

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES		MORTALITY	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 to 1 year	0	0	0	0
1 to 5 years	1	0	0	0
5 to 10 years	0	0	0	0
10 to 15 years	0	0	0	0
15 to 20 years	0	0	0	0
20 to 25 years	1	0	0	0
25 to 35 years	1	1	0	0
35 to 45 years	1	0	0	0
45 to 55 years	1	1	0	0
55 years and over	2	0	2	0
TOTALS	7	2	2	0

WARD INCIDENCE OF CASES NOTIFIED

WARD	CASES NOTIFIED		DEATHS	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Maesycwmmer	2	1	0	0
Bedwas	4	0	1	0
Trethomas	1	1	0	0
Machen	0	0	1	0
TOTALS	7	2	2	0

Of the above new cases, only one was of the non-pulmonary type.

HOUSING.

The programme for the provision of new council owned houses has been unfortunately halted, mainly for financial reasons, but it is hoped that in the near future, a building programme will be continued, as there is quite a substantial number of families who are applicants for council houses.

The following is a list of statistics relating to housing to December the 31st, 1958 :-

Number of separate dwellings owned by the local authority	Temporary Permanent	
	50	996
Total number of new separate dwellings completed during the year		
(a) By the local authority	NIL
(b) By private enterprise	8

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF COUNCIL-OWNED HOUSES

WARD				Number of houses
Maesycwmmer	.....	.....		151
Bedwas	.....	.....	.....	348
Trethomas	.....	.....	.....	315
Machen	.....	.....	.....	182
				<hr/>
TOTAL	.....	.....	.....	996
				<hr/> <hr/>

The total number of Council-owned houses for 1957 was 990 and the extra 6 houses for 1958 is made up of the 6 houses known as Chatham Place in the Machen ward, which were purchased by agreement and re-conditioned.

**HOUSING ACT, 1949, as amended by
THE HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.**

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of Grants made during 1958	.....	.....	.....	9
Amount of Grants made during 1958	.....	.....	.....	£1,802
Total number of Grants 1949 to 1958	.....	.....	.....	38
Total amount of Grants 1949 to 1958	.....	.....	.....	£7,374

IMPROVEMENT LOANS

Loans made during 1958	.....	.....	.....	.....	NIL
Total number of Loans 1949 to 1958	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Amount of loans 1949 to 1958	.....	.....	.....	.....	£1,585

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

K. P. GILES,

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

COUNCIL OFFICES,

BEDWAS.

July, 1959.

To :-

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Graham and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending the
31st December, 1958.

NOTICES SERVED.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Sections 92 and 93)					
(Abatement of Nuisances : Repairs to Properties)					
Intimation Notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	85
Abatement Notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
2. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Section 269)					
Nuisance from Moveable Dwellings.					
Intimation Notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936					
Dirty Premises					
Intimation Notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	8

HOUSING

The Improvement Grants made by the Council to owners of premises has done much to improve the position in regard to old houses, which otherwise might have to be included for report under the Slum Clearance programme.

Applications are still being received for tenancies of Council-owned houses and the programme for building new houses, which has been temporarily halted, will have to be proceeded with to satisfy the demand by the applicants for houses.

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

A. Houses Demolished.

		Houses Demolished
IN CLEARANCE AREAS		
(1)	Houses unfit for human habitation	NIL
(2)	Houses included (bad arrangement)	NIL
(3)	Houses on Land acquired (Sec. 43 (2) H.A. 1957	NIL
NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS		
(4)	As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	3

B. Unfit Houses Closed.

(8)	Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) H.A. 1957	2
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C. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied.

(11)	After informal action by local authority	62
		By By Local Owner Authority
(12)	After formal notice under :-	
(a)	Public Health Acts	9 NIL

D. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957) NIL

E. Purchase of Houses by agreement. NIL.

RENT ACT, 1957

Total Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair :-

(a)	During 1958	.....	.....	.....	8
(b)	Applications refused	.....	.....	.....	1
(c)	Certificates of Disrepair issued.....	.....	.....	.....	5
(d)	Undertakings from Landlords	.....	.....	.....	2
(e)	Applications for Cancellations	.....	.....	.....	3

COUNCIL HOUSES

The usual visits were paid to the council-owned houses and the usual small percentage of dirty and untidy tenants were asked to clean-up and usually did so by the next visit.

All prospective tenants for houses were visited and where exchange of houses were approved by the council these were also inspected.

The number of visits and re-visits for the above purposes during the year totalled 46.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disinfectants and Fly-spray was issued to the inhabitants especially those adjacent to the refuse disposal tip in the Trethomas ward.

Terminal disinfection of premises was carried out in 4 cases and disinfection for house bugs in 3 cases.

On the whole, the year 1958 shows a clean bill of health for the incidence of infectious diseases.

WATER SUPPLY

The area is supplied by the Rhymney Valley Water Board,

of which, the Council is a constituent member. The supply is of good quality and ample for the needs of the district.

Periodic spot sampling was carried out by your inspector and samples are regularly taken by the water board.

Six samples of water were taken by your inspector during this year.

Number of Houses in area with supply from mains	....	2,817
Number of Houses (mainly farms) with private supply	.....	21

SWIMMING POOLS.

There is still only one privately owned swimming pool in the district and considerable damage has been done during the Winter to the buildings and attachments to the pool.

Considerable work will have to be carried out if the pool is to be used in the coming Summer Season.

The water for the pool is filtered and treated and is safe for bathers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Rhymney river flows in a general southerly direction and is a general Western boundary of the district.

The water is polluted by washings from coal washeries and other industries prior to its entry into the district and if the time should come when these pollutants will be excluded from entry into the river, the river itself would be an amenity to be enjoyed by the inhabitants of the area.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

There still exists some pollution of the atmosphere from the gritty particles thrown up by the coke quenching plant of the coal

distillation plant, but the company have taken all precautions reasonable to prevent excessive pollution.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A once weekly collection of domestic refuse is carried out and the refuse is tipped at the Bryn site in Trethomas.

This site is approaching too near the built-up area and may become a nuisance to the inhabitants near-by.

An alternative site for the disposal of refuse should be found in the very near future to prevent any nuisances arising.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

MILK SUPPLY

Licences issued for the sale of designated milks.

1.	Dealer's Licences (Pasteurised Milk)	.....	.....	.....	3
2.	Dealer's Licence (Tuberculin Tested Milk)	.....	.....	.....	1
3.	Dealer's Licences (Sterilised Milk)	.....	.....	.....	3
4.	Supplementary Licences for sale of milk by retailers				
	from outside the area	.....	.....	.....	2

Twelve milk samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

Results were satisfactory in all cases.

ICE CREAM

Twenty-one shop premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice-cream.

In all cases the ice-cream was sold to the public pre-packed

as received from the wholesalers.

Only one purveyor of ice-cream prepares his own product using the " Hot Mix " method.

FOOD SHOPS

The food shops in the area are mainly grouped in the term " General Stores " where almost all kinds of foodstuffs can be purchased, and as I have previously stated, this makes supervision under the Shops Acts very difficult.

Constant visits are made to the food shops and every effort is made to ensure a pure and clean food supply is available to the public.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

Preliminary Notices served	2
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No Formal action was taken as the above notices were complied with.

FOODSTUFFS SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED

CANNED PRODUCTS

Various canned fruits	...	.....	.....	.....	81 cans
Various canned meats and vegetables	.....	.....	.....	.....	47 cans
Various Canned fish	.....	.....	.....	.....	36 cans
Various canned soups	.....	.....	.....	.....	21 cans

OTHER FOODS.

121 lbs. bacon	24 lbs. pickled meat
2½ cwts potatoes	2 stone haddock

In the cases of the canned products, they were condemned for being Damaged, Blown and Leakers and Decomposition. The other foodstuffs were condemned because of taint and decomposition.

The sampling of foods under the Food and Drugs Act, is carried out by the Weights and Measures Department of the Monmouthshire County Council.

LICENSED PREMISES AND CLUBS.

Periodic visits were made to the licensed premises and clubs and every establishment is now up to date and conforms with the requirements of the Hygiene Regulations.

BAKEHOUSES

The 3 bakehouses were visited and the twice yearly clean-out was carried out in every case.

CANTEENS AND CAFES

Total Number of Inspections	.....	28
School canteens	.....	8
Cafes and Factory Canteens	.....	20

The standard of cleanliness and hygiene was maintained and posters and literature were distributed to the canteen workers and cafe operatives.

MEAT INSPECTION

A one hundred per cent meat inspection of all the animals slaughtered for human consumption was carried out during the year.

The Additional Public Health Inspector is employed full-time on meat inspection at the Co-operative Wholesale Society Abattoir

and the smaller 3 slaughtering establishments are inspected by your Public Health Inspector.

The greater portion of the meat from the slaughtering establishments is consumed outside the Bedwas and Machen Urban District, so that great care is taken to ensure that the product is wholesome and free from disease.

SLAUGHTERING STATISTICS

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part :

	Cattle (excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	..... 3,006	97	197	22,018	7,971
Number inspected	..... 3,006	97	197	22,018	7,971

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTERCERCOSIS

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Carcases condemned	..... 1	0	0	16	42
Carcases of which part or organ condemned	1,192	16	8	421	621
Percentage affected with disease	..... 39.06	16.50	4.06	1.97	8.30

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

	Cattle (excl. Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole carcasses condemned	5	2	0	0	7
Carcases of which part or organ condemned	216	5	0	0	441
Percentage affected with tuberculosis.....	7.30	7.20	0	0	5.62

CYSTERCERCOSIS

18 carcasses of beef were affected with cyster cercosis none were generalised and the 18 carcasses were submitted to Refrigeration Treatment.

RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION

One Rodent Operator is employed in patrolling the area and in the disinfestation of rodents.

The twice-yearly maintenance treatment of the sewers in the area was carried out and no excessive infestation of rats was evidenced.

The refuse disposal tip is visited twice weekly and any signs of infestation is immediately dealt with.

The banks of the river Rhymney are regularly patrolled and systematically tested for infestation in collaboration with neighbouring authorities abutting the river banks.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1959

TYPE OF PROPERTY

		Local A'ty	Houses	Other prop'ties	Totals	Farms etc.
Number of properties in area		8	2,831	254	3,093	44
Number of properties inspected as a result of :-						
(a) Notification	....	NIL	31	NIL	31	NIL
(b) Under the Act	....	8	1,152	158	1,318	34
(c) Otherwise	.....	2	21	NIL	23	NIL
Number of Inspections and re-inspections	....	16	592	38	646	2
Properties found to be infested by :						
(a) Rats	Major	2	NIL	NIL	2	NIL
	Minor	3	81	NIL	84	4
(b) Mice	Major	NIL	4	NIL	4	NIL
	Minor	1	6	NIL	6	NIL
Properties treated by L.A.	..	5	91	NIL	96	NIL
Total treatments carried out	...	6	102	NIL	108	NIL

No action was taken under Section 4 of the Pests Act.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Number of factories with mechanical power	.....	.....	5
Number of factories without mechanical power	.....	.....	6
Number of workplaces (Building operations)	.....	.....	3
Number of inspections and re-inspections made	.....	.....	14

Two preliminary notices were served for lack of sanitary accommodation on building sites.

I sincerely accord my thanks to my colleagues in the office for providing some of the data in relation to the statistics included in these reports.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. R. SULWAY,

Public Health Inspector.

